

Spreading Phenomena in Economics and Society

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This workshop relates to diffusion phenomena in the economy and society. As the recent report by International Monetary Fund points out until recently, production of the global stock of knowledge and technology was concentrated in a few large industrialized economies, and from 1995 to 2014, three-quarters of the world's patented innovations originated in the Group of 5 (G5) technology leaders—namely the United States, Japan, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom. With globalization and advances in information technology, it is not the case any longer. The potential for knowledge to travel faster and further has increased dramatically opening up greater opportunities for emerging market economies to learn from other, technologically advanced, countries and build their own innovation capacity.

Topics of this workshop will focus on the dissemination of knowledge and innovation, but also cover the spread of ideology, influence, fake news. We welcome studies that address the shifts in language use and proficiency, economic and social aspects of migrations and the adoption of international human rights. The spread of COVID-19 gave rise to many papers revealing and analyzing the contagion mechanisms and other aspects of epidemiology.

A particular focus in this workshop is therefore on the dissemination of information that is of the greatest relevance in any economic system, in both market and non-market economies. Sometimes an excessive amount of information and disinformation is disseminated, as is the case of fake news, sometimes relevant information is withheld, i.e., for environmental issues, and sometimes it is not known how individuals will use the available information, as it happens in the event of the spread of a disease.

We invite papers to these topics and looking forward to contributions that will help to initiate an interesting and fruitful discussion.